

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**CORRECTED
FISCAL NOTE**

HJR 54

March 17, 2015

SUMMARY OF BILL: Urges the Supreme Court to develop and adopt rules and procedures to provide free online public access to video or oral arguments before the Supreme Court. The rules and procedures should provide for video of each oral argument to be publicly available no later than 21 days after it is heard by the Court.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

On February 21, 2015, a fiscal note was issued estimating the fiscal impact as follows:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

Other Fiscal Impact – The resolution does not require the Supreme Court to implement a system for providing video to the public. However, implementation of the rules and procedures urged by the resolution would require video systems and personnel to maintain the equipment. The Administrative Office of the Courts reports that the cost for the equipment would be a one-time expenditure of \$740,000 and hiring an employee to manage the equipment and prepare the videos for posting would result in recurring expenditures of \$58,700.

Presented more directly, the estimated fiscal impact is:

(CORRECTED)

**Increase State Expenditures – \$740,000/One-Time
\$58,700/Recurring**

Assumptions:

- The resolution urges the Supreme Court to develop and adopt rules and procedures to provide free online public access to video or oral arguments before the Supreme Court. For the purpose of this analysis, it is assumed that, at the urging of the General Assembly, the Supreme Court will, through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), implement and provide online public access when sufficient funding is available to do so.
- Implementing and providing public access to video of oral arguments will require expenditures by the AOC. The AOC looked at providing public access to video of oral arguments in 2012. The AOC's research shows that camera equipment, millwork, and

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lighting for the three Supreme Court buildings will be needed to record and stream video of oral arguments. This would require a one-time expenditure of \$740,000.

- The AOC will also need to hire one additional staff person to manage the equipment and prepare the videos for posting. This staff person would receive a salary of \$45,000.
- This could result in recurring expenditures of \$58,694 [\$45,000 salary + \$3,992 (\$45,000 x .0887) benefits + \$6,259 insurance + \$3,443 (\$45,000 x .0765) FICA].

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey L. Spalding". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

/trm